



NOTICE TO SUBMIT RESPONSE

Patent Applicant

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Application No.: 10-2003-0007119

Title of the Invention: Color Image Halftoning Apparatus and Method, and Mask Generation
Apparatus and Method used therein

According to Article 63 of the Korean Patent Law, the applicant is notified that the present application has been rejected for the reasons given below. Any Argument or Amendment which the applicant may wish to submit, must be submitted by April 23, 2005. An indefinite number of one-month extensions in the period for submitting a response may be obtained upon request, however no official confirmation of the acceptance of a request for an extension will be issued.

Reason

The invention as recited in claims 1 through 21 could have been easily invented by one of ordinary skill in the art prior to the filing of the application, and thus this application is rejected according to Article 29(2) of the Korean Patent Law.

Below

The present invention relates to an apparatus and method for halftoning a color image that can be applied to an image having a plurality of color channels using a single mask, and an apparatus and method for generating a mask used in the color image halftoning apparatus and method. However, those of ordinary skill in the art could have

easily derived the present invention from the combination of elements described in the specification and drawings of a cited reference 1 (Japanese patent laid-open publication No. Hei 14-112031 published on April 12, 2002), which discloses a halftone image and method of generating a halftone mask that is for generating an image having pixel value represented by the number of bits that is less than the number of bits presenting pixel value of an original image, and elements described in a cited reference 2 (Korean patent laid-open publication No. 1999-56418 published on July 15, 1999) which discloses a prediction image generating apparatus using mask and apparatus for coding, transmitting and decoding a binary image using the same.

Enclosures:

- Cited Reference 1: A copy of Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. Hei 14-112031
(published on April 12, 2002)
- Cited Reference 2: A copy of Korean Patent Laid-open Publication No. 1999-56418
(published on July 15, 1999)

23 February 2005

Hyung-chul Byun/Examiner
Yoon-bae Kim/Examiner
Imaging Device Examination Division
Electric and Electronic Examination Bureau
Korean Intellectual Property Office